

photo courtesy of Suzie and Rick Graetz

Demographic & Economic Information for

Fort Peck Reservation



**Fort Peck
Reservation**



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Fort Peck Reservation

The Fort Peck Indian Reservation was created through an Executive Order that was signed on December 30, 1886. Fort Peck is located in the northeast part of Montana and is also the second largest reservation in the State. The reservation covers approximately two million acres and is 40 miles wide and 110 miles long. Nearly one-half of the 12,755 enrolled Sioux and Assiniboiné tribal members reside within the reservation boundaries.

The Native American population on the reservation is experiencing a natural increase, while the non-Indian population is declining. There are several immediate impacts of the population shift: 1) the tax base of Roosevelt and Valley County is declining with out-migration, thereby decreasing county tax revenues; 2) Native Americans are not migrating to jobs in other regions, thereby increasing need for employment; 3) increased need for education facilities and training programs for Tribal members; 4) increased role for Ft. Peck Tribes in overall reservation infrastructure management and economic development.

According to the Assiniboiné Sioux Tribal Enterprise Community, nearly half of the Fort Peck Tribes' enrolled members are under 18 years of age. As such, the Fort Peck Community College took a progressive stance in developing distance learning capabilities and entering into partnerships with post secondary institutions to offer local academic programs in teacher training and business administration leading to bachelor's and master's degrees for tribal youth.

The majority of employment is supplied by the Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes, which provide work to 400 employees in government. Tribally owned businesses account for 96 employees, while Fort Peck Community College has 81 employees. The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides federal employment to 59 employees and the Verne E. Gibbs Indian Health Service has 117 employees (*employment numbers provided by tribal and public entities*).

The Assiniboiné & Sioux Tribal Enterprise Community, a partnership program between the United States Department of Agriculture and local/tribal governments to promote economic renewal, has emerged as a key driving force in the economic development effort of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation. Tribally owned entities such as Assiniboiné and Sioux Diversified (20 employees) is working diligently to acquire new contracts. West Electronics (20 employees), Fort Peck Tech (20 employees), Integrated Solutions (7 employees), local convenience stores (20 employees) and the Farm & Ranch (10 employees) gain experience in competing in global markets and in improving their profit margins. This is due in no small part to Fort Peck's extensive partnerships with off-reservation private and public sectors.*

According to the Foundation for the American Indian, A&S Diversified is a substantial minority-owned subcontractor for the Department of Defense providing work for tribal members in metal fabrication and production sewing in their 160,000 square foot manufacturing facility. Integrated Solutions, an Information Technology service located in downtown Wolf Point, contracted with Avanade, a Microsoft affiliate, to perform software testing for a Medicaid program that was valued at \$292,500. The company currently sells office supplies and equipment to the Tribes and surrounding businesses. Integrated Solutions also created an online store, which is growing in sales. In addition, Integrated Solutions, Fort Peck Tribal College and Avanade worked together to design a training curriculum to provide students with the technical expertise and education that those employees need to be job ready. (*Source: USDA, Rural Development, Rural Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program, 2003 Annual Report.*)

Over the years, unemployment has consistently remained high. The primary reason the unemployment level increased after 1990 was the downsizing of A & S Tribal Industries after the Gulf War. A & S Industries was the largest employer in Montana from 1975 until 1989 with an average of 500 employees.

Since the detailed national/regional data about the economy of the Fort Peck Reservation is not readily available, this assessment uses Roosevelt County's economic conditions to make parallel conclusions about the Fort Peck Tribes' economic conditions. This assumption was made since the population of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation accounts for more than 56% of the county's total population. Furthermore, the reservation is located in the area with most of the county's income and employment.

In summary, the economy of Roosevelt County can be characterized as having low earning, high unemployment, and poor infrastructure. This realization has prompted the governing body of the Fort Peck Tribes to diligently plan and pursue new economic opportunities, as well as provide support to its successful programs and entities.

* Primary Source: Tribal Operations Officer, Fort Peck Tribes

Fort Peck Reservation - Agricultural Statistics

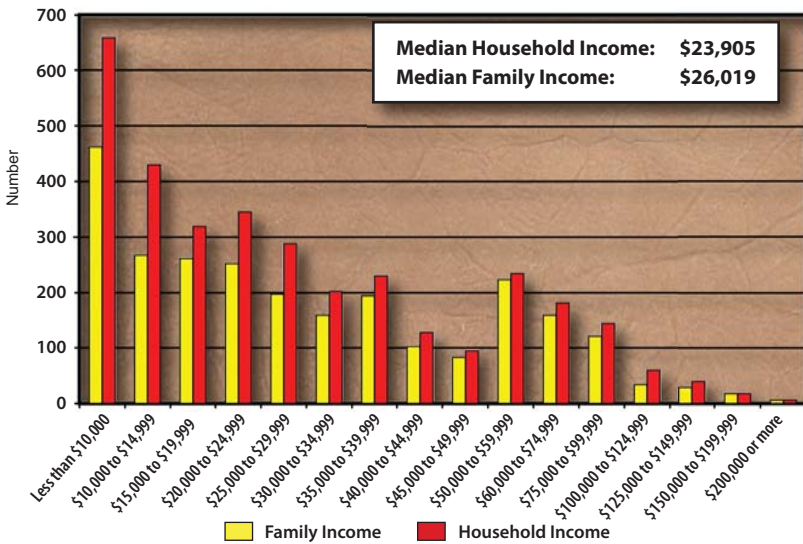
2002 Census of Agriculture

	All Farms	Farms Operated by American Indians
Farms		
Farms: (number)	548	94
Land in farms (acres)	1,774,370	599,892
Average size of farms (acres)	3,238	6,382
Farms by size: (number)		
Less than 1,000 acres	187	27
1,000 acres or more	361	67
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)		
Less than \$100,000	358	57
\$100,000 or more	190	37
Farms by type of organization: (number)		
Family, Individual, Partnership	472	83
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	76	11
Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested		
Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)		
Cattle and calves	38,884	7,072
Hogs and pigs	1,184	-
Sheep and lambs	2,941	330
Horses and ponies	1,270	428
Bison	122	(D)
Chickens (layers and broilers)	532	-
Crops Harvested (acres)		
Corn for grain	-	-
Corn for silage or greenchop	575	(D)
Wheat for grain, All	424,383	59,481
Winter wheat for grain	448	-
Durum wheat for grain	114,282	13,485
Spring wheat for grain	309,653	45,996
Barley for grain	13,426	1,330
Oats for grain	1,286	145
Sunflower seed, All	-	-
Soybeans for beans	(D)	-
Hay, haylage, grass silage	77,931	13,459
Operator Demographics		
Primary occupation: (number)		
Farming	619	79
Other	214	28
Place of residence: (number)		
On farm operated	658	86
Not on farm operated	175	21
Years on present farm: (number)		
Less than 10 years	211	40
10 years or more	622	67
Age group: (number)		
Under 55 years	496	66
55 years and over	337	41
Average age of operators: (number)	52.3	50.6

(D): Not Disclosable

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Fort Peck Reservation - Distribution of Income by Family and Household from Census 2000



Household Income: This includes the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not. Because many households consist of only one person, average household income is usually less than average family income.

Family Income: In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over related to the householder are summed and treated as a single amount.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Peck Reservation - Educational Attainment Population 25 Years and Older

Educational Attainment	Total	American Indian
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	32.8%	32.0%
Associate Degree	7.9%	8.3%
Bachelor's Degree	11.9%	7.1%
Master's Degree	1.6%	0.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Owner and Renter Occupied Housing Units

Housing	Total	American Indian
Owner Occupied	63.2%	51.0%
Rental Occupied	36.8%	49.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Peck Reservation - Labor Force Statistics

The table below provides labor force statistics from three separate sources. The reader will notice some of the numbers are dissimilar, owing to the differing definitions and statistical techniques used by each source. These differences are explained below:

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Unemployment rates produced by MT Department of Labor
- Labor Force definition
 - Civilian, non-institutional population 16 years and older
 - The sum of Employment and Unemployment
- Employment definition
 - Did any work as paid employees
 - Worked in their own business, profession, or farm
 - Worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family owned enterprise
- Unemployment definition
 - Have not worked during monthly survey period (usually the week containing the 12th of the month)
 - Available for work
 - Actively seeking a job during last four weeks
- Unemployment Rate definition
 - Equal to the number of Unemployed divided by number in the Labor Force

U.S. Census Bureau:

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the reservation, not the tribe.
- Uses the same definitions for Labor Force, Employment, and Unemployment as BLS
- Self-reported every ten years
- Rate reflects employment status as of April 1st, 2000

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA):

- Statistics represent labor characteristics of the tribe, not the reservation.
- Labor Force definition
 - Number of tribal members between 16 and 64 years old
 - Available for work
 - Not disabled or incarcerated
- Employment definition
 - Tribal members working for money
- Unemployment definition
 - Calculated by subtracting Employment from Labor Force

	Year	Labor Force	Employed	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate
MT Dept. of Labor & Industry	2006	3,743	3,380	364	9.7%
U.S. Census Bureau	2000	4,375	3,608	767	17.5%
U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs	2005	3,322	1,544	1,778	53.5%

Fort Peck Reservation - Occupation by Gender

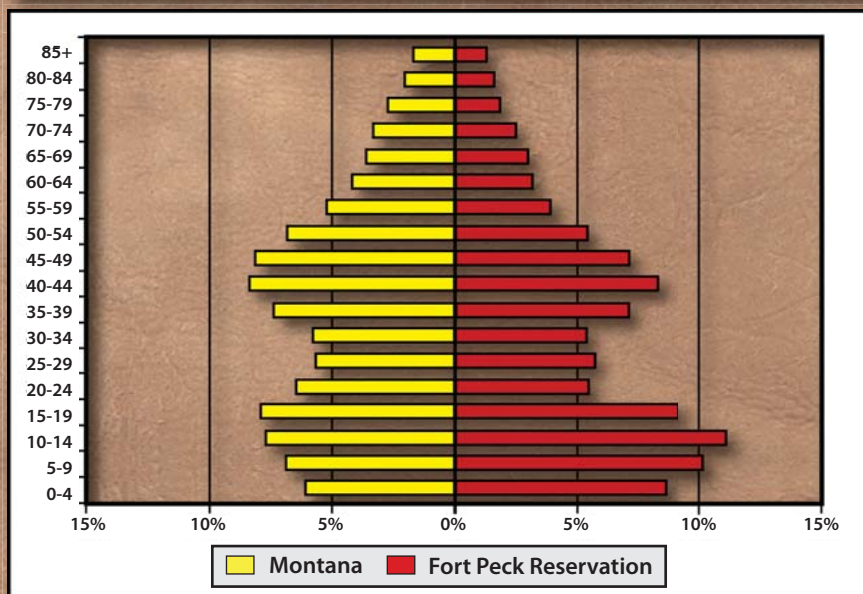
Employed Civilian Population 16 Years and Over

Occupation	Total	American Indian
Total:	3,608	1,602
Male:	1,803	754
Management, professional, and related occupations	714	238
Service occupations	241	164
Sales and office occupations	222	54
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	70	23
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	310	164
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	246	111
Female:	1,805	848
Management, professional, and related occupations	743	299
Service occupations	462	278
Sales and office occupations	552	256
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	19	2
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	1	0
Production, transport., and material moving occupations	28	13

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Peck Reservation - Population Pyramid

Percent of Total Reservation Population by Age Group



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Fort Peck Reservation Wage & Salary Employment Annual Averages 2005 - 2006

Industry	2005		2006		Employ. Change	Wage Change
	Employ.	Wages	Employ.	Wages		
Total	2,890	\$24,622	3,026	\$25,764	4.7%	4.6%
Total Private	1,286	\$19,840	1,372	\$20,865	6.7%	5.2%
Goods Producing	78	\$24,313	105	\$31,699	34.8%	30.4%
Natural Resources & Mining	N/A	N/A	21	\$33,890	-	-
Construction	13	\$18,897	21	\$21,705	59.6%	14.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	N/A	N/A	15	\$23,872	-	-
Manufacturing	54	\$25,455	47	\$24,832	-12.7%	-2.4%
Service Providing	1,208	\$19,550	1,267	\$19,965	4.8%	2.1%
Trade, Transport. & Utilities	471	\$21,961	474	\$23,112	0.6%	5.2%
Wholesale Trade	48	\$27,421	49	\$30,856	2.8%	12.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	N/A	N/A	34	\$36,854	-	-
Retail Trade	361	\$18,510	353	\$19,263	-2.2%	4.1%
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	42	\$25,739	40	\$24,797	-5.2%	-3.7%
Building Materials and Garden & Equipment Supplies Dealers	39	\$16,681	36	\$17,965	-8.5%	7.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	81	\$16,868	81	\$17,058	-0.4%	1.1%
Gasoline Stations	125	\$19,951	127	\$20,828	1.8%	4.4%
Misc. Store Retailers	29	\$16,932	28	\$19,080	-2.0%	12.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	N/A	N/A	55	\$29,522	-	-
Information	43	\$15,415	39	\$19,124	-8.9%	24.1%
Financial Activities	57	\$21,922	56	\$23,699	-1.3%	8.1%
Finance & Insurance	43	\$26,759	44	\$28,544	1.2%	6.7%
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	29	\$28,658	28	\$31,095	-2.3%	8.5%
Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	14	\$22,869	15	\$23,779	8.3%	4.0%
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	14	\$7,525	13	\$7,171	-8.9%	-4.7%
Professional & Business Services	57	\$16,335	79	\$19,524	37.9%	19.5%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	25	\$24,556	33	\$28,885	32.7%	17.6%
Admin. & Support & Waste Mgmt. & Remediation Services	32	\$9,884	45	\$12,687	41.9%	28.4%
Education & Health Services	294	\$26,191	320	\$26,740	8.8%	2.1%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	N/A	N/A	33	\$57,867	-	-
Social Assistance	N/A	N/A	21	\$14,731	-	-
Leisure & Hospitality	209	\$8,906	254	\$9,674	21.4%	8.6%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	N/A	N/A	30	\$13,575	-	-
Accommodation & Food Services	209	\$8,906	224	\$9,154	7.1%	2.8%
Accommodation	53	\$10,060	61	\$10,008	15.1%	-0.5%
Food Services & Drinking Places	156	\$8,513	163	\$8,833	4.4%	3.8%
Other Services	66	\$11,174	61	\$11,520	-7.2%	3.1%
Repair and Maintenance	N/A	N/A	8	\$18,336	-	-
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional & Similar organizations	36	\$9,182	40	\$8,817	11.8%	-4.0%
Total Government	1,604	\$28,456	1,654	\$29,827	3.1%	4.8%
Federal Government	209	\$47,882	200	\$51,077	-4.5%	6.7%
State Government	82	\$33,752	96	\$31,683	16.8%	-6.1%
Local Government	1,313	\$25,038	1,358	\$26,573	3.5%	6.1%
Local Government Education	589	\$28,478	620	\$30,481	5.3%	7.0%
Local Government Non-Education	725	\$22,228	738	\$23,288	1.8%	4.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Note: This data is based on the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) series which compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance. Some sectors are not shown to preserve confidentiality of individual businesses

American Indian and Total Population for Fort Peck Reservation and Related Areas

	American Indian Population						
	Census	Estimates					
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fort Peck Reservation	6,391	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Daniels County	26	31	31	31	31	30	30
Roosevelt County	5,880	5,932	5,916	5,966	6,063	6,217	6,183
Brockton	208	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Poplar	580	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wolf Point	1,079	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sheridan County	49	50	50	52	55	58	58
Reserve CDP*	1	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Valley County	724	754	707	709	742	714	717
Frazier CDP*	418	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

	Total Population						
	Census	Estimates					
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Fort Peck Reservation	10,321	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Daniels County	2,017	2,013	1,932	1,914	1,837	1,825	1,774
Roosevelt County	10,620	10,574	10,432	10,410	10,610	10,601	10,496
Brockton	245	244	241	240	245	245	242
Poplar	911	907	896	893	909	910	900
Wolf Point	2,663	2,656	2,619	2,614	2,661	2,643	2,612
Sheridan County	4,105	3,945	3,804	3,652	3,639	3,517	3,447
Reserve CDP*	37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Valley County	7,675	7,532	7,394	7,291	7,240	7,144	6,995
Frazier CDP*	452	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

n/a = Not available

*Census designated places (CDPs) are delineated for each decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located. The boundaries usually are defined in cooperation with local and tribal officials. These boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place or other legal entity boundary, have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions.

Fort Peck Information

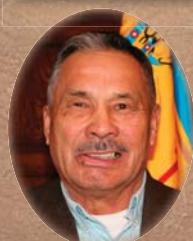
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